

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Info

FROM: PARIS

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Control: 14538

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Rec'd: AUGUST 19, 1961

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: POLTO 183, AUGUST 19, 6 PM

PRIORITY

DECLASSIFIED

Authority Sten. 11/2/76  
By smg, NARS, Date 4/6/77

ACTION DEPARTMENT POLTO 183; INFORMATION BONN POLTO 39, BERLIN  
POLTO 21, MOSCOW POLTO 38, LONDON POLTO 39

POUCHED OTHER NATO CAPITALS POLTO UNN.

PER DEPTEL 972 US INFORMED NAC THIS AFTERNOON OF REINFORCEMENT  
BERLIN GARRISON. US EXPLAINED NEED TO SHOW EARNEST OF WEST,  
PARTICULARLY US, TO LIVE UP TO COMMITMENT IN LIGHT ANXIETY  
OF PEOPLE OF BERLIN, AND TRIP OF VICE PRESIDENT AND CLAY  
TOGETHER WITH REINFORCEMENT GARRISON INTENDED FOR THIS  
END. SAID HAD BEEN FIRM INTENTION TO INFORM NAC BEFORE MAKING  
PUBLIC BUT LEAK HAD OCCURRED. DRAWING ON INFORMATION PROVIDED  
BY GENERAL NORSTADT US EXPLAINED COMPOSITION OF BATTLE  
GROUP, FACT THAT IT WOULD OVERNIGHT NEAR HELMSTEDT AND,  
LEAVE THERE TOMORROW MORNING TO ARRIVE BERLIN MID-AFTERNOON.  
STRESSED THIS WAS ADMINISTRATIVE MOVEMENT FOR REINFORCEMENT  
PURPOSES.

GERMANS ASKED FOR IMMEDIATE INFORMATION IF MOVEMENT  
REFUSED ENTRY AT HELMSTEDT AND STIKKER SAID HE WOULD  
BE IN CONTACT WITH NORSTADT. STIKKER TOOK MOST CONSTRUCTIVE  
LINE, STRESSING THAT IT WAS NOT A PROBE OR A MILITARY  
MEASURE BUT A DEMONSTRATION OF READINESS AND PREPAREDNESS  
IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. NEVERTHELESS, MOVE MIGHT BE MISCONSTRUED  
BY RUSSIANS AND ALTHOUGH AS YET NO VITAL INTEREST OF WEST  
AFFECTED BLOCKING OF ACCESS WOULD AS SECRETARY HAD NOTED,  
BRING OTHER MEASURES INTO PLAY, ECONOMIC OR MILITARY.  
IF THAT IS THE CASE, NOT ONLY THREE OR FOUR WOULD BE INVOLVED,  
BUT NATO AS SUCH. STIKKER SAID HE PRESUMED FOUR POWERS

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-2- POLITICO 183, AUGUST 19, 6 PM, FROM: PARIS

IN WASHINGTON MUST HAVE CONSIDERED FURTHER CONSEQUENCES AND GENTLY INDICATED WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. HE INCLUDED IN HIS COMMENTS RESTRAINED BUT CLEAR INDICATION THAT MEMBERS WOULD HAVE WANTED TO HAVE KNOWN OF DECISION AND DISCUSSED IT BEFORE HAND.

TURKEY PRESSED POINT AS TO WHETHER THIS MIGHT NOT BE A PROBE OR RESULT IN SAME ACTION AS A PROBE AND INQUIRED WHETHER FOUR POWERS READY TO APPLY EMERGENCY PLANS IF THERE WAS TROUBLE. GERMANS STRESSED IT WAS NOT A PROBE, BUT RELATED TO NERVOUSNESS BERLIN POPULATION. VON WALTER PERSONALLY SAID HE THOUGHT THAT IF THERE ARE ANY DIFFICULTIES, TROOPS WOULD NOT MARCH ON.

IN RESPONSE ITALY QUESTION, GERMANS AND UK SAID SIMILAR MOVEMENTS ON AUTOBAHN NOT UNUSUAL AND UK POINTED OUT NO LIMITATION IN INCREASING GARRISONS. UK THOUGHT WASHINGTON GROUP HAD ANTICIPATED THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTIES, BUT IF CONTRARY OCCURRED WOULD BE SERIOUS. UK THOUGHT WE SHOULD DISTINGUISH MILITARY BUILD-UP PROPOSED BY RUSK FROM ACTION TO REASSURE BERLIN POPULATION. SAID UK SENDING 18 ONE TON ARMORED VEHICLES AND 16 FERRETS, AND HAD NO WORD MOVEMENT BLOCKED. FRENCH AGREED AS TO PURPOSE OF REINFORCEMENT AND SAID FRENCH GOVERNMENT TODAY CONSIDERING REINFORCEMENT OF GARRISON, PERHAPS BY THREE COMPANIES OF PARATROOPERS, AND ABOUT 1,000 MEN. HOPED TO BE ABLE TO CONFIRM MONDAY.

US REITERATED THIS WAS IN NO SENSE A PROBE, POINTED OUT MOVEMENT NOT BEING RUSHED NOR WAS IT A TREMENDOUS FORCE.

US THEN CONVEYED SUMMARY OF SOVIET NOTE PER MOSCOWS 573 TO DEPARTMENT AND UK SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED NOTE WHICH SOUNDED IDENTICAL.

ELP/22

DURBROW

~~Note: Advance copies to Mr. Magill-(REDACTED) and SO 6:30 p.m. 8-19-61~~

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